

At a Meeting of the **FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** held on Wednesday 5th February 2014, at the Civic Offices, Wellington Road Community Centre, Rhyl commencing at 6.00pm.

PRESENT

Councillor P. Prendergast (Chair)

Councillors I. W. Armstrong, B. Blakeley, Mrs J. Butterfield MBE,
Mrs J. Chamberlain-Jones, Mrs E. M. Chard, Ms J. Hughes, A. R. James,
Mrs M. McCarroll, B. Moylan, Mrs W. M. Mullen-James, S. H. Ratcliffe,
Miss S. L. Roberts, A. J. Rutherford, Miss R. Siddall, D. Simmons, W. N. Tasker and
Miss C. L. Williams.

Mr G. J. Nickels - Town Clerk
Mr R. A. Hughes – Finance Officer
Miss H. J. Windus - Personal Assistant & Secretary

124. APOLOGIES

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors J. May (work commitment) and B. Mellor (indisposed).

125. PRESENTATION: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

The Chair welcomed Programme Managers Mr Brett Jones, Ms Rhian Roberts and Mr Matthew Hilliker to the meeting and invited them to provide the Committee with an update on the programme.

Ms Roberts began by thanking the Town Council for its continued financial support to the programme in these difficult times, which gave Rhyl extra provision and went on to briefly explain her role within Strategic Leisure overseeing a range of county wide activities and projects including leisure centres, 5x60 officers, play, GP referrals, disability sport, Rhyl & Llangollen Pavilions and family information services.

Mr Jones reported that during 2012/13:

- Sportzone had attracted 2,100 participants
- Swimming Top Ups had achieved an 82% success rate
- Eight individuals had gone through the Talent Athlete Scheme
- They had created links with Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and were working with four Rhyl schools.
- The Ffordd Elan Fun Day with Youth & Countryside Services had been a great day.
- They had formed a Junior Netball club and entered into a League.
- Paralympian Mark Colbourne had visited Rhyl events on two occasions and had had a big impact on the young people present.

The 2013/14 plan would include:

- Sportzone working with Barnardos disabled young people
- Swimming
- Two Talented Athletes
- Coach Education
- Community Club links
- Older people's GP referral exit routes
- Athletics
- Beach sports (volleyball and football)
- Cycling opportunities, making more use of the Marsh Tracks facility and the new Coastal Cycle Route following the opening of the Pont y Ddraig.

Mr Hilliker (acting up for Ms Sian Bennett whilst on maternity leave) circulated information about the Queens Baton Relay coming through Rhyl and said that in light of the heavy agenda tonight, he would return to give a presentation about it another time.

In response to Members' questions and comments, the officers advised that:

- The 2,100 participants in last year's Sportzone was the number taking part not different individuals.
- The schools did not pay for Mark Colbourne's last visit to Rhyl.
- They were trying to promote Marsh Tracks, which was one of the facilities Mark came to try out.
- The key to good participation with schools was a face they knew and trusted.
- If the Town Council reduced its financial contribution to the programme the officers would sit down with the Council for the Council to determine which areas it would like to prioritise.

A Member added that a Rhyl school boy had secured a running scholarship in the USA thanks to the programme, and that one day we might even see him competing in the Olympics!

The Chair thanked the officers for their presentation.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) *The Council's Champions, B. Blakeley and A. R. James to provide regular updates on the programme.*
- (ii) *A copy of the presentation given and the programme costs be circulated to all Members for their information.*

126. PRESENTATION: NEW RHYL HIGH SCHOOL

Further to Minute No.54 of the meeting held on 18th September 2013, the Chair welcomed Ms Jackie Walley, Denbighshire County Council's Project Manager for the new build and invited her to provide the Committee with an update.

Ms Walley advised that the school:

- was not just a replacement for Rhyl High School, it would be a new model community school for Rhyl to make full use of seven days a week.
- would include a base for the more able children from Ysgol Tir Morfa and hot desks for anybody to use.
- would be a light and airy three story building featuring a lot of glass.
- was a really special project described as “exemplar” by the Welsh Government.

And that:

- the cinder path would be opened up as a walkthrough.
- the main access would be on Grange Road and would alleviate congestion and benefit from a bigger car park.
- the Leisure Centre on site would be renovated and the pool would only be decommissioned once a new pool was up and running in Rhyl.
- primary and secondary children had been consulted with and their input would be an elementary part of the design of the building.
- works would begin in September.
- they would use local companies as much as possible to boost the local economy.
- she would come back to the Council as many times as it wanted and would bring the designs along with her.

Members were thrilled with the project and thanked Ms Walley and her department for doing an excellent job and consulting with and listening to local people’s views and concerns along the process.

127. PRESENTATION: RHYL SUNCENTRE / CLWYD LEISURE LIMITED

The Chair reported that Mr Jamie Groves was unable to attend due to an urgent personal matter on route to the Council Chamber, for which he gave his apologies and offered to re-arrange for the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to re-arrange the confidential presentation with Mr Groves.

128. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT – 3rd QUARTER

The Finance Officer submitted his report (circulated with Agenda) advising of an underspend of £25,752 on a budget of £404,445 with all sections forecasting an underspend as detailed in the report.

Members thanked the Finance Officer for a good report which was easy to understand.

RESOLVED that the report be received.

129. CONSULTATION: NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER – POLICE AND CRIME PLAN FOR NORTH WALES

The Town Clerk referred to the above (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration.

There was a general consensus of concern that the role of Commissioner was too powerful and unaccountable to anybody or any board and that the only recourse was in the hands of the electorate.

RESOLVED that the document be received.

[Councillor W. N. Tasker declared a prejudicial interest in the above item due to his position on the Police Authority Committee representing Denbighshire County Council, but remained in the Chamber taking no further part in discussions or voting thereon]

130. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – GRASS CUTTING

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED that option (a) be chosen but thought be given to exploring sustainable planting, private sponsorship and community projects.

131. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration and reminded Members that Mr Wynne-Evans was attending the February Council meeting to give a presentation on enforcement schemes in operation.

RESOLVED that the document be received and the Town Clerk to request clear signage in the town centre stating a zero tolerance approach to dog fouling, littering, etc.

132. CONSULTATION: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – DRAFT LOCAL HOUSING STRATEGY

The Town Clerk reported receipt of the above (circulated with Agenda) for Members' consideration and advised that DCC had agreed to extend the deadline for responses.

A Member said they had a number of issues with the strategy and passed them to the Town Clerk so as not to delay the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to make the Councillor's representations.

133. FUTURE WORK PLAN – FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Town Clerk presented his report (circulated with Agenda) and asked Members to individually prioritise the work plan and return it to him before the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk to send the work plan as a Word document to all Members via e-mail.

134. INFORMATION ITEM: ONE VOICE WALES

The Town Clerk reported that he had attended the meeting with One Voice Wales at Prestatyn Town Council on Members' behalf and that on the whole it was a One Voice Wales sales pitch.

RESOLVED that the information be received.

135. INFORMAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

The Town Clerk suggested that the meeting be held immediately after the March Council meeting before the Planning Committee.

RESOLVED that the meeting be held on 19th March 2014 immediately after the March Council meeting.

136. PRESENTATIONS FROM RHYL GOING FORWARD OFFICERS (IF REQUIRED)

Further to Minute No.29 of the meeting held on 3rd July 2013, the Town Clerk reported that there had been no request to report to the Town Council.

137. MEMBERS ITEM: PHASE THREE OF THE WEST RHYL COASTAL DEFENCE SCHEME

Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield referred to Denbighshire County Council's Flood Risk Manager, Mr Wayne Hope's report (circulated with Agenda) advising that a Project Team had been appointed and that design and viability works were underway with a view to being completed by the end of the March 2014. Contractors will start on site in October 2014.

RESOLVED that the information be received and the Town Clerk to ask whether Phase 4 could now begin to keep up the momentum and copy to the Chair of the Rhyl Members Area Group.

138. MEMBERS ITEM: RHYL IN BLOOM

Councillor P. Prendergast sought Members' support for the Chair of the Rhyl in Bloom Committee to give a presentation to a future Council meeting.

RESOLVED *that the request be approved.*

139. MEMBERS' INFORMATION ITEMS

- (i) The Town Clerk advised that Network Rail would be giving a presentation on the continued refurbishment of Rhyl Station in the Council Chamber at 11.30am on Friday 21st February 2014.
- (ii) The Town Clerk and Councillor Miss S. L. Roberts reminded Members about the 'Make Rhyl Clean in 2014' meeting at the Town Hall at 4.30pm on Monday 10th February 2014 and asked Members to put the word out and encourage organisations and groups to come along.
- (iii) Councillor Mrs J. Butterfield reminded Members about the Open Surgery in the White Rose Centre on Saturday 8th February 2014.
- (iv) The Town Clerk reported that he had still not received a response from Denbighshire County Council with regards to a replacement bus shelter on St. Margaret's Drive and that he would now offer £1,000 to DCC as a contribution towards it as previously authorised by Members.
- (v) The Town Clerk reported that due to the lack of acceptable progress to reinstate the secure boundary screening at the Ocean Plaza site, the landowners had been warned that they are at risk of being served with formal enforcement notices. The Landowners had been given a short period in which to make significant progress and if they failed to do so a notice would be served.

140. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED *that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting for consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, on the grounds of confidentiality.*

141. MAYOR / DEPUTY MAYOR'S ALLOWANCE

The Town Clerk submitted his confidential report (circulated with Agenda) as requested by the Council's SOP Committee following a view expressed that the level of allowance was adequate and should not be linked to inflation but to Public Sector pay awards, which are significantly lower.

RESOLVED *that the report be received.*

[In agreement with the Chair the meeting broke for a 10 minute comfort break]

142. RHYL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Finance Officer circulated copies of a confidential report from the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee in respect of recent negotiations with the Association on the Lease of the Civic Offices at Wellington Community Centre, which was due for renewal last year and extended until 31st March this year. The report contained a number of recommendations from the Sub-Committee in respect of the Council's negotiating position.

Members of the Committee were not prepared to sanction the recommendations at this time and instructed the Sub-Committee to obtain clarification in respect of a number of issues.

RESOLVED *that the Risk Assessment Sub-Committee be instructed to undertake further enquiries as now specified in respect of the Council's future occupation of the Wellington Centre.*

143. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER – RECOVERY OF FUNDING

The Finance Officer reported that, as instructed, he had issued the Town Centre Management Group with an invoice for the remaining unused portion of the Town Council's contribution to the Town Centre Manager post.

RESOLVED *that the information be received.*

144. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Chair suggested that in line with Council policy that no meeting should go beyond 9.00pm this and the following item be deferred to the next meeting of Council.

RESOLVED *that the item be deferred to the next meeting of Council.*

145. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE – PROPOSAL REGARDING FUTURE OPERATION OF TOWN COUNCIL GRANT SCHEME

As 144 above.

146. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed.

Chair:

Date: